"Census designated places" are defined by the Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism in cooperation with the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2000 decennial census under authority granted by Sec. 26-18 Hawaii Revised Statutes. Although described in the legislation as "cities, towns, and villages," none of these places is an independent municipality with separate government and taxing powers; the boundaries determined for these places are statistical rather than political.